

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

UNCLAS STATE 189141

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, XC

SUBJECT: APCAC JAKARTA MEETING - APCAC RELATIONS WITH
ASEAN

REFS: HONG KONG 8314, JAKARTA 9737

1. IN RESPONSE TO APCAC'S DESIRE TO EXPLORE SOME RE-
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LATIONSHIP WITH ASEAN, FOLLOWING IS SOME BACKGROUND

INFORMATION ON ASEAN ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND ON POSSIBLE
APCAC CONTACT WITH ASEAN.

2. ASEAN'S EFFORTS AT ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND COORDINATION RECEIVED NEW IMPULSE AT THE BALI SUMMIT. THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY THE KUALA LUMPUR MEETING OF ECONOMIC MINISTERS WHICH PUT FLESH ON THE ECONOMIC GUIDELINES ADOPTED IN BALI. IT WAS AGREED TO ESTABLISH A SYSTEM OF PREFERENTIAL PURCHASE AND SUPPLY OF RICE AND PETROLEUM IN TIMES OF SHORTAGE OR GLUT, TO EXAMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING ONE MAJOR INDUSTRIAL PROJECT IN EACH OF THE ASEAN COUNTRIES, -- UREA IN INDONESIA AND MALAYSIA, SUPER PHOSPHATES IN PHILIPPINES, SODA-ASH IN THAILAND AND DIESEL ENGINES IN SINGAPORE, -- TO SET UP PREFERENTIAL TRADING ARRANGEMENTS FOR SELECTED PRODUCTS AND TO FORMULATE JOINT APPROACHES TO TRADE, INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY AND OTHER ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.

3. WHILE THESE ARE USEFUL STEPS IT IS SOMEWHAT EARLY TO PREDICT THE REAL ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE FOR THE FUTURE AND THE LIKELY PACE OF INCREASED ASEAN ECONOMIC COOPERATION.

4. THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FIVE REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS IS EVIDENTLY OF SOME PRIORITY TO ASEAN ECONOMIC POLICY MAKERS. TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE THE PROJECTS ARE STILL IN THE PREPARATORY STAGE AND WE CANNOT BE MORE SPECIFIC THAN TO CALL THESE PROJECTS TO THE ATTENTION OF THE AMERICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY.

5. THUS WE AGREE WITH THE CAUTIONARY WORDS OF EMBASSY JAKARTA. APCAC MAY WISH TO CONSIDER PASSING A RESOLUTION WHICH IN ESSENCE WOULD STATE APCAC'S AND THE AMCHAM'S READINESS TO COOPERATE WITH ASEAN. SUCH RECOGNITION OF ASEAN BY THE AMERICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY MAY WELL BE APPRECIATED.

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